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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,428	12/22/2000	Neelam N. Vaidya	0007056-0174/P5701NP/ARG/	1488

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EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/747,428

Applicant(s)

VAIDYA ET AL.

Examiner

Sana Al-Hashemi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's amendment filed 10/21/2004.
2. Claims 1-24 were not amended. No claims were deleted. None were added.
3. Claims 1-24 are still pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunnell, and further in view of Morgenstern (US Patent No. 5,970,490).

1. Regarding Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, Bunnell discloses a method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network (see Fig. 2, 30, column 6, lines 27-32, Bunnell) comprising:

accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request (see column 5, lines 21-27, Bunnell);

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modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical database in response to said client request (see column 6, lines 7-10, Bunnell); and

Bunnell discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth in the rejection above, but Bunnell does not explicitly disclose the method managing said nodes using said state attributes, wherein each one of the state attributes comprises an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format attribute. However, Morgenstern discloses the use of an extensible Markup Language (XML) (see column 45, lines 28-37, column 46, lines, 1-5, Morgenstren). It would have been obvious to the ordinary skilled artisan at the time of the invention to use the XML of Morgenstren in Bunnell by using XML. The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to make such modification in order to extend and eventually supersede HTML, since it's well known that XML, allows web developers and designers create customized tags that offer greater flexibility in organizing and presenting information than is possible with the older HTML document coding system. XML is defined as a language standard published by the W3C and supported by the industry.

2. Regarding Claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, the combination of Bunnell/Morgenstern discloses a method wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element is one of updated default, deleted, and added (see Fig. 3, step 55, column 9, lines 18-21, Bunnell).

3. Regarding Claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Bunnell discloses a method wherein each one of said state attributes includes a value of one of default, replaced, modified, and deleted, indicating a last action taken on a corresponding data element (see column 7, lines 37-39, and column 9, lines 39-55, Bunnell).

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4. Claims 4, 9, 14, 19, and 21-24, the combination of Bunnell/Morgenstern discloses the method wherein each one of said nodes comprises an XML node (see column 45, lines 38-45, Morgenstern).
5. Regarding Claims 5, 10, 15, and 20, the combination of Bunnell/Morgenstern discloses a method wherein said nodes are organized in a Document Object Model format (see column 10, lines 64-53, Bunnell).

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 10/21/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argument "Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1, for example, at least because the Examiner has not shown a prima facie case of obviousness. According to the Examiner in rejecting claim 1, for example, "managing said nodes using said state attributes, wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an extensible Markup Language IXMLI format attribute, is not disclosed by Bunnell, but Morgenstern allegedly discloses the use of XML at col. 45, lines 28-37 and at col. 46, lines 1-5. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to the ordinary skilled artisan at the time of the invention to use the XML of Morgenstren [sic] in Bunnell by using XML. The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to make such modification in order to extend and eventually supersede HTML . . ." The Examiner has proposed or explained no relation between HTML as disclosed in Bunnell and the state attributes, recited by claim 1. As such, extending and

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eventually superseding HTML as disclosed by Bunnell does not relate to the state attributes of claim 1, and the Examiner provides no explanation of how extending and eventually superseding HTML relates to the state attributes. The HTML as disclosed in Bunnell relates to display, mention of HTML by Bunnell refers to a user interface 70 presented as an applet within an HTML document and displayed with an HTML browser, at col. 10, lines 46-55. The HTML not state attributes. The only document and HTML browser are used for display (See Fig. 5; col. 10, lines 48-49 Nowhere in Bunnell does it state that the attributes as cited by the Examiner in rejecting the claims are HTML attributes. As such, the Examiner's stated motivation to extend and eventually supersede HTML" combined with Bunnell would not teach or suggest state attributes comprising an extensible Markup Language (XML) format attribute, respectfully submit that there is no mention or suggestion of modifying state attributes associated with nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database in Bunnell.

Examiner disagrees. A very brief explanation of what is the HTML, and XML. The HTML is a Hyper Text Mark Language files which is a tag based notation language used to format documents that can then be interpreted and rendered by an Internet browser, the HTML is an application (Standard Generalized Markup Language) that uses tags to mark elements, such as text and graphics, in a document. On the other hand the XML is the extensible Markup Language, a condensed form of Standard Generalized Markup Language, which allow the Web developers and designer to customize tags that offer greater flexibility in organizing and presenting information that is possible with the older HTML document coding system. So in other words the use of XML taught by Morgenstern in replacing the HTML taught in the Bunnell is very reasonable since both languages are Markup languages and service the web development.

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With respect to applicant argument regarding the limitation of "managing said nodes using said state attributes..." Applicant did not explicitly defines the state attribute in any special way other than the formal way known in the database environment would make the prima facie case of obviousness is properly established.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272-4023. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia. 22202.

Sana Al-Hashemi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
February 23, 2005



ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER